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ATHENA, MARCH 25, 1898.

Fusion was the result of the deliberations of the democrats, populists and free silver republicans in convention at Pendleton, Friday last. The harmony which prevailed, and the declination of many who were placed in nomination for different offices, point strongly to the fact that the offices, generally speaking, sought the man, and not the man the office. The ticket placed before the people is, therefore, one that has been placed by the people and not by machine politicians. The ticket, in our estimation, could have been stronger in some individual points; but where is the ticket that could not have been made stronger, had it been remodeled a second time? The party lash is a thing of the past; and the old way of "voting for a yaller dog, if he's on my ticket," doesn't go any more with the intelligent voter in local politics. Promises have been held out time and again by the office-seeker to the voter for more economical government in our county affairs, but no material good has come from them. Democrats and republicans alike have made promises that have never been fulfilled. Property owners of the county, burdened with taxation, have turned on the extravagant methods in vogue heretofore, and resolutions are ripe to support only men who will strictly practice economy in office. We say it and we sincerely believe it, that the ticket now before the people and the one to be brought into the field by the republicans, stand on their merits only, and only on their merits will they be supported by the people, irrespective of party affiliations.

A little more than one-half of the public domain of the United States is either reserved or appropriated. A report from the interior department shows that the area still remaining vacant amounts to 491,343,953 acres, without including Alaska, which is supposed to embrace nearly 400,000,000 acres more. The entire area of the United States is placed at 1,835,017,692 acres. Of this 741,702,365 acres is now owned by individuals or by corporations or by state, or has passed out of the control of the general government. The amount reserved for schools, Indians, military and naval purposes, railroad grants, parks, forest reservations, etc., including all territory reserved from sale for any purpose whatsoever, amounts to 132,441,744 acres, so that, taking the reserve land and the vacant land together, only about one-half of the area of the United States has actually passed out of control of the government, and, if Alaska is included, the unoccupied area is larger by 300,000,000 acres than that which is occupied. Settled as closely as Belgium this area would accommodate the 15,000,000,000 supposed to constitute the world's population.

The breaking of ground for the erection of a new cotton mill at Concord, N. C., the other day was an event of importance in the nation's history. New cotton mills are not unplentiful in the south, as manufacturers elsewhere can testify to their sorrow, but this is the first mill to be erected, owned and operated exclusively by negroes. For two years a colored merchant named Stoneman has been working for the promotion of this enterprise and has been able to raise all the funds necessary for the enterprise from members of his race.

New England, now greatly interested in the depletion of her cotton manufacturing industry through the development of the south, must eventually face a similar problem in the wool trade. The west is destined to encroach upon eastern supremacy in this branch of manufacture in a steadily increasing degree. As the great source of production with the great cost of transporting the raw wool east in our favor, there promises a rapid growth in the making of woolen goods in the Pacific states. The past year has been productive of considerable progress in this direction and the future will bring greater developments.

The average charge of the railroads—long and short—for the transportation of freight is estimated by experts at one cent a pound. The average charge of the same railroads for carrying mails is more than five cents a pound, even if we include the land-grants roads that get only 80 per cent of the price paid to others. The average freight charge has been reduced by no less than 40 per cent during the last twenty years. The charge for carrying the mails has not been reduced at all. Here is the fraud that causes an annual postal deficiency. The way to stop the deficiency is to stop the steal.

From the tenor of the Portland dispatches it is gleaned that fusion is not having smooth sailing in the convention. J. P. Young, chairman of the populist state central committee, heads a considerable following who are in the middle of the road, and who are doing everything in opposition to fusion. In case the populist convention insists on fusion with the democrats and silver republicans, it is probable that a large number of delegates will walk out of the convention.

The returns of the adjutant general of the army show that the nation is not so badly prepared for war, at least as far as the available men are concerned, as some believe. In addition to the small regular army, the militia of the 45 states includes 114,365 men, New York leading with a total of 13,894. The total number of men available for military service is placed at 10,301,399, which would insure in an emergency a very formidable army in point of numbers.

Nathan Pierce, who ran for governor on the populist ticket four years ago, is one of the delegates from Umatilla county now in the city. Milton, his town, has been fighting for a division of Umatilla county for many years and Mr. Pierce says the struggle is by no means over, as his neighbors have to go too far to Pendleton, the county seat.—Portland Telegram.

J. W. Maloney, of this city, was the unanimous choice of the convention as candidate for the office of Recorder of Conveyances, on the union ticket. Mr. Maloney is one of the best qualified men that could have been chosen to run for this office. He is a clean, competent man, well known and well liked by the people of Umatilla county.

Dogs are destined to play an important part in the affairs of the world from now on. The English foreign office has a serious question of dog-muzzling diplomacy to settle, Kentucky is struggling with the canine tax business, and it is impossible to reach Klondike without a spanking pair of brindle pups.

For the important office of Sheriff, Wm. Blakely, who made the race on the democratic ticket during the last campaign, is again before the people. Mr. Blakely's strong popularity throughout the county, coupled with his ability, will make him a hard man to defeat.

Planted now on the eastern coast of China are Russia, Japan, Germany, England and France. It is now a sort of happy family and beats the concert of Europe for possibilities.

C. W. Gates, nominee for clerk on the union ticket is a competent man, a royal good fellow and, if elected, will make a good official.

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Notice for Publication.

Land Office at La Grande, Oregon, Feb 23, 1898.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the County Clerk of Umatilla County, Oregon, at Pendleton, Oregon, on

April 15, 1898,

viz: Alex McDonald, H. E. No. 5103, for the E½ SW¼ and Lots 3 and 4, Sec 31, Twp 4 N., R 34, E. W. M.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz:

Lyman M. Watrus, Lee Price, Jesse O. Hales, all of Adams, Oregon; Daniel K. Bell, of Pendleton, Oregon.

E. W. Bartlett, Register.

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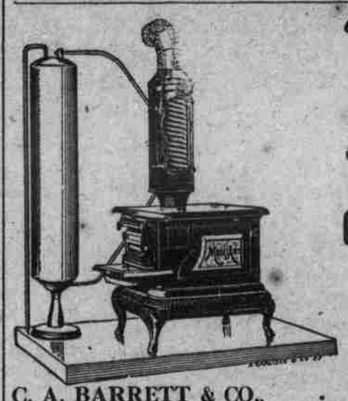

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